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Governor Mike Easley 20301 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699

Dear Governor Easley:

The recently-released review of invalid social security numbers being used to obtain driver licenses causes me great concern. While some discrepancies uncovered were no doubt caused by human error, the sheer number of people impacted suggests the need for relevant State stakeholders to work with the Social Security Administration to make every effort to promptly notify individuals determined to have an inconsistency.

I am aware that notifying those impacted will be difficult due to barriers preventing State access to relevant information. However, the possibility of identity theft merits the use of every tool available to inform North Carolinians who may be at risk.

I will reintroduce legislation, the Social Security Fraudulent Use Notification Act, which will require the Social Security Administration to notify citizens originally issued a Social Security number if it is determined that another individual has used the number in a fraudulent or otherwise illegal manner. This legislation would go a long way toward the Federal government upholding the integrity of sensitive information and gives Americans the right to know if their social security number may be at risk.

Lastly, this audit is a prime example of why North Carolina must continue its efforts to comply with the recommended REAL ID guidelines issued by the Department of Homeland Security. Once implemented, these minimum identification standards will prevent future cases of license and identification cards being plagued by inaccuracies like those uncovered by the recent audit.

Member of Congress

cc: Michael Astrue, Commissioner, US Social Security Administration cc: Lyndo Tippett, Secretary, North Carolina Department of Transportation